



*Remarks by Brigadier General Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.,
Commander, Mississippi Valley Division, at the Breakfast
Meeting of the Upper Mississippi Illinois Missouri Rivers
Association Meeting, Quincy, Illinois, 10 February 2001*

Hope you enjoyed the presentation last night.

MVD WORK ALLOWANCES

(in millions)	FY 2000 Allocation	FY 2001 Allocation
General Investigations	\$ 21.0	\$ 19.0
Construction, General	\$195.7	\$209.5
O&M, General	\$348.1	\$361.5
Mississippi River & Tribs.	\$309.4	\$351.2
<u>FUSRAP</u>	<u>\$ 45.0</u>	<u>\$ 55.0</u>
TOTAL	\$919.2	\$996.2

There is an overall increase of \$77 million dollars in all five major appropriations from FY 2000 to FY 2001.

Since 2000 was an election year, and we now have a new Administration, details of the President's FY 2002 Budget will not be released until early April 2001. However, we are generally expecting about the same total overall funding level as for FY 2001.

NEW STARTS

MVD had 1 new construction start for FY 2001, which is a flood control project located in the St. Paul District (Crookston, Minnesota).

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Our major efforts in the northern 3 districts are the projects of the Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Program (HREP) -- a component of the Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program.

HREP projects are located along the upper Mississippi River and Illinois River in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri.

Approximately 18-20 Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects are scheduled for construction during the next 2 years.

Project costs generally range from \$1 - \$5 million dollars.

REGULATORY

Utilization of Water Resources – The challenge of meeting industry/construction needs vs. environmental resources and making decisions in a timely, responsible manner.

Cumulative Impacts – The technical state of the art has not been developed to make a scientific determination concerning cumulative impacts; we do the best we can. We have started collecting data on past activities, which is a step in the right direction.

Change in definition of fill material – (Proposed) Rule would make the Corps regulate waste that is already regulated under RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act)

Many activities previously regulated by NWP 26 are now regulated by Individual Permits, which has increased the workload. In addition, new NWPs are limited to ½ acre. Districts are developing Regional General Permits to cover some of these activities; EPA/FWS are threatening to elevate the development of the General Permits.

Implementation of Recent Court Rulings and Rule Changes –

- Tulloch Rule – Fed Reg 17 Jan 01 only raises the expectations that the Corps will be providing additional environmental protection; it does not change the way the Corps does business. If we do not proceed with the rule there will be no change in impacts to the aquatic environment. Statutory fix is the only way the Corps can regulate excavation.

- SWANCC (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County) – Supreme Court (5/4) decision that Corps exceeded statutory authority by regulating isolated, intrastate, and non-navigable waters. Many gray areas – DOJ/EPA/Corps working on guidance.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Upper Mississippi River Basin Comprehensive Plan was authorized by Section 459 of WRDA 1999, which required a report to the authorizing Committees of Congress not later than 3 years after enactment of WRDA 1999.

This plan, authorized at full Federal expense, would address water resource and related land resource problems and opportunities in the upper Mississippi and Illinois River basins, from Cairo, Illinois, to the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

Specific problems and opportunities include improve long-term management of the river basin in the interest of flood damage prevention, stream bank caving and erosion, habitat needs and habitat management, watershed nutrient and sediment analyses, and ecosystem restoration activities.

Section 404 of WRDA 2000 amended the original authorization to require a report be submitted to Congress not later than 3 years after funds are appropriated.

To date, no funds have been appropriated for this study.

As you know, the major challenge we face is balancing the traditional water resources projects of flood control and navigation with the environmental needs of the valley – environmentally sustainable development.

This balancing act will require closer coordination between all the stakeholders along the river. We seek to protect the natural resources of the Mississippi River ecosystem, yet we must also protect our citizens from the potentially catastrophic damage of floods. We must conserve the river's environmental resources while, at the same time, maintaining the navigation system that is vital to our economy.

COMMANDER'S INTENT

- MVD will be a proponent for water resources development in the valley.
- MVD will strive for environmentally sustainable development of the river systems.
- MVD will be an avid environmental steward of the natural resources under its purview.
- MVD will seek dialogue and work to balance the navigation, flood control, environmental, and other competing interests in the valley in the development of water resources.

In summary, I would offer that as we continue to serve the Valley and the Nation, we will do so:

- As one team,
- Continuously seeking efficiencies in our process,
- Using any Corps or other agency to provide the right solution, and
- Providing engineering excellence with integrity and credibility.